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BOROUGH OF LEOMINSTER

Herefordshire

Joint
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Public Health Inspector
for the year 1966

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1966)

* THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, Councillor G.G. POWELL, J.P.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor D.J. WRIGHT.

Aldermen:

F.H. DALE, J.P.

* N. DAVIS

D.R. JONES (Chairman of the Streets and Works Committee)

* Mrs. P.P. PEATT, J.P.

Councillors:

* F. BARBER, J.P. (Chairman of the Housing and Public Health
Committee)

* A.E. BENGRI

* A.T. BISHOP

J.H. BLANCHARD, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. (Vict.)

S.R. BOOTH, B.Sc., J.P.

* Mrs. E.R. BROWN (Chairman of the Parks and Cemetery Committee)

* R.B. BURKE (Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes
Committee)

* C.W. HARRIS, M.B.E., J.P. (Chairman of the Town Development
Committee)

H.E. POWELL

* F.W. WOODWARD

*Members of the Housing and Public Health Committee

Town Clerk and Chief Financial Officer .. K. DOWNS

Borough Surveyor .. H. SCHOFIELD

G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

A. STUART SMITH, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Meat and Other Foods,

Public Health Inspector,

Grange Court,

LEOMINSTER.

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Office Staff:

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: C.A. PREECE

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector: Miss J.B. ALLEN

(Resigned June, 1966)

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Leominster
Borough Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1966, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

I have no special comment to make on the statistical section of the Report.

I would like to draw attention to two parts of the Public Health Inspector's report - firstly his resumé of the advantages of a paper sack system of refuse collection and secondly, his remarks on the slow rate of new house building.

Under the first heading, I fully endorse his remarks, and urge the Council to consider this advance once again; under the second, the net gain of four houses during the year is fully reflected in the pressure of applicants for "special attention" in housing who come to see me. There is no doubt that there is a serious shortage of housing to let in Leominster and it does not seem that anyone other than the Council is going to satisfy this need. As I have often said to members of the Committee, we could let 100 houses tomorrow and still have applicants to spare. The amount of overcrowding and of slum living which continues in the Borough needs energetic action to overcome.

I would like to thank Mr. Smith for his help in the past year and for the usual excellent section he has prepared for this report.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .. .. .	..	..	..	8,728
Estimated mid-year home population .. .. .	..	..	..	6,930
Average number of persons per acre .. .. .	..	..	..	0.8
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	..	..	..	2,337
Average number of inhabited houses per acre .. .. .	..	..	..	0.27
Average number of persons per house .. .. .	..	..	..	3.0
Rateable Value .. .. .	..	..	..	£233,796
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	..	..	..	£935

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	61	46	107
Illegitimate	5	2	7
	<hr/> 66 <hr/>	<hr/> 48 <hr/>	<hr/> 114 <hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.07	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Leominster Borough (Crude)	16.5	18.4	20.8	15.3	17.3
" " (Adjusted)	17.7	19.7	22.3	16.4	17.0
England and Wales	17.7	18.0	18.4	18.2	18.0

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Leominster Borough ..	6.1
England and Wales ..	*

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Leominster Borough	8.7	Nil	13.9	9.9	9.0
England and Wales	15.4	15.8	16.3	17.2	18.1

* figure not yet available

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Leominster Borough	.. 17.5
England and Wales	.. 11.1

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Leominster Borough	.. 26.3
England and Wales	.. 12.9

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Leominster Borough	.. 26.1
England and Wales	.. 26.3

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Leominster Borough	(Total	26.3	7.9	21.1	10.0	Nil
	(Legitimate	28.0	8.5	22.7	10.5	Nil
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	(Total	19.0	19.0	19.9	21.1	21.6
	(Legitimate	*	*	19.4	20.8	21.3
	(Illegitimate	*	*	26.3	26.0	27.2

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Leominster Borough	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	0.26

DEATHS

		Males	Females	Total	
Total number of deaths from all causes:		51	48	99	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
Comparability factor: 0.69	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Leominster Borough (Crude)	14.3	14.4	12.0	15.3	15.1
" " (Adjusted)	9.9	11.5	9.5	12.0	10.6
England and Wales	11.7	11.5	11.3	12.2	11.9

Cancer

		Males	Females	Total	
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:		5	6	11	
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Leominster Borough	1.59	3.47	1.46	2.75	2.49
England and Wales	*	2.23	2.20	2.17	2.18

Cardio-Vascular Disease

			Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:			27	28	53
Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Leominster Borough	7.65	7.96	6.59	8.42	9.49
England and Wales	*	5.95	5.73	5.22	6.14

*figures not yet available

DEATHSRespiratory Disease (Excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	9	6	15

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Leominster Borough	2.16	1.74	1.61	2.30	1.87
England and Wales	*	1.41	1.37	1.71	1.57

*figure not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	4	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	3	5
Coronary disease, angina	12	7	19
Hypertension with heart disease	-	3	3
Other heart disease	10	13	23
Other circulatory disease	3	2	5
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	4	3	7
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	-	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	1	7
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	1	2
Totals:	51	48	99

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE BOROUGH OF LEOMINSTER DURING THE YEAR 1966

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	-	13
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	3	12
Scarlet Fever	4	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	9
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	2	40	45
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1966

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	26	6	37
Measles	52	8	4	5	2	2	3	15	39	21	35	85	271
Scarlet Fever	5	2	1	-	3	8	1	-	5	-	-	4	29
Erysipelas	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Acute Encephalitis:													
Infective	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	9
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	1	43	2	3	-	-	2	40	92
Food Poisoning	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	9
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary ⁴	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASECOMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEARSBorough of Leominster

Disease	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Whooping Cough	12	1	6	-	1
Measles	13	196	10	8	154
Scarlet Fever	9	-	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	3	-	1
Dysentery	45	1	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	1	3	5	2	2
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	1	-	-

North Herefordshire

Whooping Cough	37	5	70	29	13
Measles	271	525	609	507	337
Scarlet Fever	29	12	8	12	9
Erysipelas	4	3	2	3	5
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	2	-	-	2	2
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	1	2
Acute Pneumonia	9	3	8	13	15
Dysentery	92	6	3	7	1
Food Poisoning	9	8	14	7	5
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	1	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	4	8	10	9	7
Non-Pulmonary	3	3	3	1	2
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	-	-	-	-	1

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASECOMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	North Here- fordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	1.00	0.40
Measles	7.33	7.15
Scarlet Fever	0.78	0.44
Erysipelas	0.11	0.03
Acute Pneumonia	0.24	0.17
Dysentery	2.49	0.44
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.09
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.11	0.26
Non-Pulmonary	0.08	0.04

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1965.	36	18	1	4
New cases notified	1	-	-	-
Moved into district	1	-	-	-
Died	-	1	-	-
Died from other causes	2	-	-	1
Recovered	5	3	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1966.	31	14	1	3

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1962	1	51	-	3
1963	3	53	-	-
1964	5	59	-	1
1965	4	59	-	1
1966	1	49	4	8

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORTANNUAL REPORTS TO MEMBERS OF COUNCILS

Throughout the period of my office as Public Health Inspector it has been my policy to compile and complete this section of the Annual Report immediately at the close of each year. Consequently it is my considered opinion that Annual Reports which, in general throughout the country, only reach members of the councils many months - sometimes 9/12 months - after the end of each year to which the reports apply, lose significance in that much useful environmental information, statistics and comment, tend to lack due importance and beneficence.

WATERPiped Supplies (Public Water Mains)

The supply of piped water to that portion of the Council's area which is provided with water mains is through the Herefordshire Water Board. The Herefordshire Water Board was constituted by Order of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1959. Administration and control of the Council's Water Undertaking passed to the Board in April, 1960.

- (1) The piped water supply of the area and of its several parts has been fully satisfactory in quality and fully satisfactory in quantity.

(2) Bacteriological Examination

- (a) Water after chlorination - 44 samples taken
(All free of organisms of faecal origin)

Number of samples taken from taps	
at consumers' premises	44

- (b) Number of samples of raw water taken
prior to chlorination Nil

- (3) No plumbo-solvent action - hard water.
- (4) Action taken in respect of any form of contamination - immediate re-sampling.
- (5) Chemical examinations - Nil (Fluoride F. 0.26 p.p.m.)
- (6) Number of dwelling-houses, flats, etc., supplied from public water mains:-

(a) Direct to houses, flats, etc. ..	2,178
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(b) By means of standpipes	6
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WATER (Continued)

Of 457 occupied houses in the Out-Parish, about 335 houses are supplied with piped chlorinated water.

The approximate number of houses relying on spring, borehole, or well, is as follows:-

Borough	..	..	2
Out-Parish	..	..	122

Remarks

The following Out-Parish areas are not provided with mains piped water supplies:-

Brierley, Stagbatch, Aulden and Wintercott, Stretford and Hennor, Elms Green, Wharton and Marlbrook.

Water Samples taken and submitted for analysis

(a) Piped supplies (House taps)	..	..	..	44
(b) Wells, boreholes, springs and brooks	..	..	..	4
(c) Open Air Swimming Bath	..	..	..	30

Note - (a) 44 samples satisfactory.
 (b) 4 samples unsatisfactory.
 (c) 30 samples satisfactory.

HARD WATER - PIPED SUPPLIES

The supply of water to domestic and industrial premises in Leominster has a total hardness value above 240 parts per million, and can be classified as "hard" water in that when used for domestic purposes it does not conveniently lather, is wasteful of soap, is "scum" forming, and contains what are often called "hard salts".

Heating of raw hard water above a certain temperature causes precipitation of the so called "hard salts" or "fur"; in other words the heating creates lime deposits on the bottom or sides of vessels such as kettles, back boilers, cylinders, and circulators.

In every modernised house, and in every new houses built today, constant hot water is usual. What then is going to be the effect, in the course of time, of constant heating of "hard" water for domestic purposes and the consequent precipitation of the so called hard salts on the hot water circulatory systems such as back boilers, apparatus, pipes, cylinders, etc? Is not the effect eventually going to be choked up systems and expense?

HARD WATER (Continued)

But what of the consequences in the future within an AFFLUENT SOCIETY requiring, in addition to hot water for domestic purposes, warm air in the home and with the "HOME HEATING" based on hard water to provide combined domestic hot water and back-ground or central heating in the home ? To provide the temperature needed for the appropriate back-ground heating, or central heating, the raw "hard" water will need to be heated to a much higher temperature than that normally required for personal or ordinary domestic purposes. With the continuous heating, particularly during the winter months, of "hard" water to high temperatures is there not eventually going to be "furred-up" systems, knocking, and finally inconvenience and costly replacements ?

For an expanding population could not probable hazards as aforesaid be avoided by the installation, at the source of supply, of a water softening plant ? A "soft" water supply would be beneficial. convenient, clean, and economical to each and everyone, and to each and every home, office, shop and industrial premises.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Borough's first sewage disposal works was brought into operation during the year 1963.

- (1) The Council's area is only partially sewered, mainly for the following reason:-

Unsewered properties are economically incapable of being connected to a sewerage system.

- (2) 86% of the occupied properties in the Council's area are drained to the Council's sewerage system.
- (3) No sewage from other areas is received into the Council's sewers or direct into the Council's sewage disposal works.
- (4) The effluent from the sewage disposal works is discharged into the River Arrow. Storm water discharges to various water courses.
- (5) No parts of the Council's area are drained to sewers or sewage disposal works of another authority, joint board or committee.

Borough Proper - Drainage of old premises to the sewer is in the main poor, consisting usually of unjointed pipes devoid of inspection chambers or ventilation shafts.

Out-Parish - Houses, where no sewer available, are drained to septic tanks or other place.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (Continued)

Approximate number of occupied houses drained to sewer:-

Borough Proper	..	..	..	..	1,831
Out-Parish	..	..	..	..	165

Number of occupied houses not drained to sewer:-

Borough Proper	..	..	..	..	20
Out-Parish	..	..	..	..	292

Cesspool Emptying

The Council do not undertake to empty cesspools.

Approximate number of cesspools in area:-

Borough Proper	..	..	..	..	17
Out-Parish	..	..	..	..	222

TENTS AND CARAVANS

Camping does not exist on a large scale. No sites licensed.

REFUSE COLLECTION, REMOVAL, DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT

(1) Collection - Borough Proper - Vehicular collection once per week.

Out-Parish - Vehicular collection weekly or fortnightly according to locality.

DUSTBINS renewed 69

(2) Disposal of Refuse Tipping.

(3) Treatment against rodents Periodic baiting.

The Council undertake collection of refuse from all reasonably accessible properties in the Council's area.

In my last Annual Report under the aforesaid heading I stated with brevity some of the de-merits of the metal bin system - the observations being endorsed by the Medical Officer of Health.

In the 1965 Report the quote under HYGIENE - "From this aspect a paper sack system would be preferable to a metal bin system in many ways. There would be less dust, spilled or blown refuse, weight, noise, flies, vermin, fires and contamination".

The brevity of the observations failed in that the year 1966 did not appear to produce a discussion at public health level, or the operation of a pilot scheme.

REFUSE COLLECTION, REMOVAL, DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT (Continued)

The paper sack system may not, in the accounts of a local authority reveal the paper sack system as being directly cheaper than the metal bin system, yet the merits of the paper sack system from a public health and hygienic aspect are much in advance of the insanitary metal dustbin system with the metal dustbin in continuous usage, in constant contamination, and smelly.

The paper sack system has other advantages if based on health and hygiene, as distinct from finance.

- (1) Hygienic collection.
- (2) Dustless loading and less blown refuse into houses, food premises, shops and other premises.
- (3) Use of simpler form of vehicle for collection in place of costly vehicles and metal dustbins.
- (4) Reduction in noise.
- (5) Reduction in total weight lifted by employees - a light paper sack instead of a heavy metal bin.
- (6) Reduction in walking time at each house - a single journey.
- (7) Elimination of need for dustbins to be brought out in advance of arrival of collection vehicle.
- (8) General improvement in working conditions of employees.
- (9) At Refuse Tip - Less vermin and flies as sacks break down in 4/5 weeks and become an integral part of the tip.

FUTURE HOUSING SCHEMES (Council and private development)

A pilot sack scheme embodied in future housing development might prove worthwhile not only in relation to costings, hygiene and public health, but would also give some guidance on how to maintain a refuse collection service in the face of an expanding population and a possible shrinking labour force.

Refuse Collection in an expanding Leominster

It might not be remiss to look well ahead and be mindful of the fact that with industrial expansion a local authority can find itself competing with high wage paying industries providing working conditions more generous and congenial than the dirty heavy metal dustbin refuse removal system, and finding, in a period of "full employment", labour recruitment presenting a major problem.

HOUSING

The observations and statistics given relate to the position as at 31st December, 1966, being the date when this part of the report was compiled and completed, and should be read accordingly.

Densities and Sites

The observations in my last annual report, and under the above heading, may be worthy of repetition for clarification and accordingly are denoted below:

"In the Borough proper there is a wide disparity in housing densities. A large proportion of aged houses, opening directly on to street pavements, built some hundred years or more, conveniently situated near shops, employment, schools, churches, health and medical and dental services, social and cultural amenities, etc., have extensive garden areas undeveloped at the rear. With only a proportion of the Council's area sewered and the amount of convenient accessible land connected to the existing sewerage system limited, the writer feels that the time will come, and probably in the not too distant future, when housing densities in the sewered areas must be increased, and when it will become reasonably appropriate for the Local Authority to consider the possible purchase of aged houses having extensive rear gardens of suitable levels, efficiently sewered, provided with piped water supplies, gas, electricity, if convenient economical expansion and orderly planned development is to proceed and suffice"

The wording of the aforesaid abstract was not intended to convey that the "in-filling" of open spaces should be confined and restricted purely to those areas of land on which stood, or still stand, small groups of unfit houses condemned under Clearance Order procedure, but rather that there should be forward looking towards the acquisition at market value of centrally situated inadequately developed land, or aged houses having areas of land at the rear suitable for more reasoned development than prevails at the present time.

It may not be out of place to quote as an example the land at the rear of properties in Etnam Street, at one time mooted by the Council for car park purposes (and land thereabouts) as flatish well serviced land, centrally situated, and convenient for development by the erection thereon of homes, or flats, for aged persons, particularly disabled or afflicted persons, and middle aged groups; and as ideal for such persons.

Environment. Great importance is attached to the environment in which houses stand, and care should be taken that environment is not destroyed. A house cannot be satisfactory if its environment is not satisfactory. And so in any considered development of spaces at the rear of existing occupied dwellings already enjoying a pleasant environment, importance should be attached to the fact that the occupiers, or owners, of the existing houses are rightfully entitled to a continued satisfactory environment and the beneficial enjoyment of their homes free from noise, offensive smells, air pollution, and other nuisances.

HOUSING (Continued)Improvement of Dwellings - Improvement Areas

Excluding houses already subject to Confirmed Clearance Orders and due to be demolished, and also excluding Grade V houses still to be dealt with under Clearance Order procedure, the number of IMPROVABLE OLDER HOUSES in Leominster which lack amenities and which could still have a reasonable life provided they were improved with the five "STANDARD AMENITIES", namely, a hot water supply, a fixed bath, or shower, a wash-hand basin, a readily accessible water closet, and a proper food store, is probably in the region of 300 houses.

Prior to the inception of "OVERSPILL" to Leominster, and the probable demands in regard to labour, materials and prices thoughts might be advanced towards better environmental improvements, hygiene and standards of comfort for many of the existing Leominster inhabitants occupying improvable houses which lack reasonable and essential standard amenities.

The Council might well be advised to put into operation the preparation of a programme for identifying areas of improvable old houses suitable for comprehensive improvement on an AREA IMPROVEMENT BASIS, the purpose of which would be to secure, say within the next 5 years, the provision within each old improvable house of the full five standard amenities.

To achieve comprehensive improvements Councils can cause certain areas to be defined on maps and pass appropriate resolutions declaring the areas so defined on the maps as IMPROVEMENT AREAS. Where they declare defined areas to be improvement areas this has the effect of applying their powers to compel improvements to tenanted houses in those areas. This procedure, however, does not mean the abandonment of voluntary improvements, as every owner, lessee or mortgagee of a dwelling scheduled within an improvement areas will be entitled to be heard when the local authority's proposals are discussed in the preliminary stages. Moreover, attractive grants designed to secure the improvement of houses voluntarily are available to owner-occupiers and landlords.

Progress - Council House Building

In my last annual report I also stated that over the past ten years 1956 to 1965, the number of traditionally brick built Council dwellings completed and occupied was 197, an average of approximately 20 per year; and further that an annual building rate of 20 dwellings per year was far from satisfying annual requirements.

The year 1966 has seen the number of traditionally brick built council houses completed and occupied as 24. Although this figure is an improvement on the average of the years 1956 to 1965 inclusive, it is not adequate to breach an annual accumulating deficiency; nor adequate to provide a suitable or reasoned answer to the desperate needs of families living in lodgings, or under multiple occupation, or in rooms deficient in amenities, or in condemned houses, or under conditions prejudicial to health, and so on.

HOUSING (Continued)Progress - Council House Building (Continued)

Unfortunately, the net increase in the number of council dwellings during the year 1966 has only been four due to the demolition or closure of certain pre-fabricated bungalows erected in Holland Road in the year 1947, and which have been deemed to have served their usefulness.

COUNCIL HOUSES BUILT during 1966	..	..	24
LESS bungalows demolished or closed during 1966	..	..	20
			<hr/>
NET INCREASE during the year	..	..	4
			<hr/>

Confirmed Clearance Areas, 1966

During the year Clearance Orders relating to the undernoted properties were confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Clearance Order Number

90	The six dwelling-houses known as, 22,24,26,28,30,32, Dishley Street.
92	The three dwelling-houses known as 128,130 and 132, South Street.
93	The five dwelling-houses known as 46, 48, 50, 52 and 52a, Dishley Street.

Post-War Clearance Areas

The following houses resolved by the Local Authority as Clearance Areas are still standing:-

<u>Area No.</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u>Unoccupied</u>
52	11,13,15,17, North Road.	4	2	2
53	4, 5, 6, Strangward's Court.	3	-	3
56	51 and 53, Mill Street.	2	-	2
63	2,4,6,8,10, Bargates.	5	2	3
65	1 and 2, Grange Walk 10, Corn Square	3	-	3
68	9, 11, 13, Ryelands Rd.	3	1	2
69	48, 48a, 50, 52, 54, Bridge Street.	5	4	1

HOUSING (Continued)Post-War Clearance Areas (Continued)

<u>Area No.</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u>Unoccupied</u>
70	15 and 17, Mill Street.	2	2	-
71	21, 23, 25, Mill Street.	3	-	3
74	4a, 6, 8, 8a, Bridge St.	4	1	3
75	122 and 124, South St.	2	2	-
76	17, Ryelands Road.	1	-	1
77	20, 22, 24, 26, Bridge St.	4	4	-
78	38, 40, 42, Burgess St.	3	3	-
79	121, 123, Bargates	2	1	1
80	5,9,11,13, Mill Street.	4	4	-
82	90,92,94,96,98, Bridge Street.	5	3	2
83	99, 101, 103, 105, 107, Bridge Street.	5	4	1
84	1,2,3, Victoria Court	3	1	2
85	82,84,86, South Street.	3	3	-
86	46,48, Vicarage Street.	2	2	-
87	69 and 71, Etnam Street and 1,2, West's Court.	4	1	3
88	40,42,44, Dishley St.	3	3	-
90	22,24,26,28,30,32, Dishley Street.	6	6	-
91	70,72,74,76, Bridge St.	4	4	-
92	128,130,132, South St.	3	3	-
93	46, 48, 50, 52, 52a, Dishley Street.	5	4	1
Sub-total		93	60	33

HOUSING (Continued)Pre-War Clearance Areas

The following 16 houses confirmed for clearance in the years 1938 and 1939 are still standing:-

<u>Area No.</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u>Unoccupied</u>
38	52,54, Etnam Street. (1938)	2	-	2
27	109,111, Bridge Street. (1939)	2	1	1
28	85,87,89,91,93, Bridge Street and 1, Lowes Court (1939)	6	4	2
36	30, Vicarage Street. (1938)	1	1	-
49	1/2 Rose Tree Cottages, Ebnal. (1939)	1	1	-
49	1,2, Bedford Cottages, Ebnal (1939)	2	2	-
33	1, 3, Bridge Street. (1939)	2	1	1
Sub-total		16	10	6
TOTAL CLEARANCE AREA HOUSES STANDING AT 31st DECEMBER, 1966:		109	70	39

Housing Statistics

(1) Total number of Clearance Area houses demolished:-

Pre-War 1939	..	60
Post-War 1945	..	189
		<u>249</u>

NOTE: The number of clearance area houses demolished during the years 1956 - 1966 inclusive is 148
Houses demolished in the year 1966 12

HOUSING (Continued)Housing Statistics (Continued)

- (2) Individual unfit houses demolished voluntarily and under Housing Acts 1937 and 1957:

Pre-War 1939	..	16
Post-War 1945	..	64

80

NOTE: Individual unfit houses demolished in 1966 .. 24

The number of individual unfit houses cleared or closed during the years 1956 to 1966 is as follows:

Demolished	..	49
Closed	..	9

58

Estimated number of unfit houses for future clearance or closure under Part II or Part III of Housing Act 1957 .. 100

Number of New Houses Completed During the Year

(a) Total 38

(b) With State Assistance under Housing Acts:-

(1) By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	24
(2) By other bodies or persons	..	..	..	-

(c) Without State Assistance:-

(1) By other bodies or persons

(i) Borough	..	..	..	..	..	10
(ii) Out-Parish	..	..	..	..	..	4

Statistics relating to Council Houses, Flats and Bungalows

The number of occupied dwellings owned by the Council is as follows:-

Built pre 1939 208

Built from 1st April 1945 to 31st December, 1966 .. 471
 Less Holland Road Pre-fabs. demolished/closed.. 20 451

Conversion of one premise to 6 flats (1958) 6

Old houses acquired and standing at 31st December 1966 (8 occupied, 1 void) 9

Total .. 674

HOUSING (Continued)Types and Numbers of Council Dwellings

(a) Permanent prefabricated Airey Type	..	..	..	28
(b) Permanent prefabricated Cornish Unit	..	..	..	24
(c) Traditional brick	561

Bungalows

Traditional brick (aged persons 1 bedroom type)	..	25
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Flats

Traditional brick	21
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Conversions

Newman House to 6 flats	6
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<u>Old Houses Acquired</u>	9
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 674

The number of Council dwellings constructed and occupied during the year 1966 is 24, namely:

Newman Close	..	8
Holland Road	..	8
Ryelands Road	..	2
Westcroft	..	1
Westfield Walk	..	5

OLD HOUSES ACQUIRED BY THE COUNCIL AND STILL STANDING AT 31st DECEMBER, 1966, made up as follows:

22, Dishley Street	1
Library House	1
97, Etnam Street	1
1, Jenkins Buildings	1
Worcester Road	2
2,4,6, Bargates	3
	<hr/> 9 <hr/>

Houses in Multiple Occupation

There are no registered common lodging houses in the Leominster district.

Houses in Multiple Occupation	..	8
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HOUSING (Continued)Schedule of Dwellings etc., Constructed by the Council

SITES	Built Pre-1939	Built from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December 1965			Built in 1966		
		HOUSES	HOUSES	BUNG- ALOWS	FLATS	HOUSES	BUNG- ALOWS	FLATS
Caswell Estate	90	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worcester Road	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gateway Lane	100	102	-	12	8	-	-
Westfield Estate	-	179	-	-	6	-	-
Cranes Lane	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
Kenwater Close	-	30	-	-	-	-	-
Lugg Way	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Rainbow Street	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hengrave Green	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
Eaton Close	-	-	25	1	-	-	-
Leofric House	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Falconer Place	-	30	-	-	-	-	-
Hawthorne Place	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
Newman Close	-	6	-	-	8	-	-
Ryelands Road	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Total Constructed	208	381	25	21	24	-	-
Newman House converted to flats (1958)	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
"Sunnyside" acquisition and conversion (1964)	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total cons- tructed and converted	208	383	25	27	24	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963Tables A. and C. - Registrations and General InspectionsPeriod Covered - 1st January, 1966 to 31st December, 1966.

Class of Premises	Premises registered during the year	Total premises registered at end of year	Premises receiving general inspection during the year	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Offices	1	25	23	157
Retail Shops	4	85	65	341
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	1	1	20
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens.	1	13	9	69
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	124	98	587
TOTAL MALES				218
TOTAL FEMALES				369

TABLE B.

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises .. 158

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Public Abattoir, Sewage Disposal Works, and Refuse Tip received periodic treatments.

Dwellinghouses, Farms, Business Premises and Local Authority Premises:-

Number treated against mice 1

Number treated against rats 70

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Number on Register (excluding Building Sites) .. 77

Number of Inspections 50

Cases in which defects were found 5

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The adoption of byelaws designed to ensure that all houses erected in future be provided with grates or other appliances capable of burning smokeless fuels or of smokeless operations, was approved by the Council in February, 1957.

The few Leominster industrial plants which discharged blackish smoke into the air from high chimneys ceased shortly after the coming into operation of the Clean Air Act, and therefore, in so far as the powers of the local authority are concerned, the chief cause of air pollution in Leominster is the domestic chimney.

Walking round the Borough during the winter evenings one cannot fail but to contrast those chimneys discharging dirty smoke, and those chimneys free of smoke, and then to reason on the advantages of living in a clean atmosphere clear of smoke and unburnt hydro-carbons from domestic chimneys.

Polluted air can be inconvenient and insidious and give rise to ill health, and so, even in a rural borough, sight should not be lost of the advantages of a clean air policy, and the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, and the Byelaws, in relation to present prevailing conditions, and also in relation to the future planned expansion of Leominster.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODFOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960Number and type of Food Premises

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Fitted to comply with:</u>	
		<u>Regulation 16</u>	<u>Regulation 19</u>
(a) GROCERS (including sale of fruit, fish, game, vegetables, and pre-packed ice-cream) ..	33	32	33
(b) SWEETS and SUGAR CONFECTIONERY (including sale of pre-packed ice-cream) ..	10	9	8
(c) RESTAURANTS and CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS (including fish and chip fryers, sale of pre-packed ice-cream) ..	12	9	12
(d) LICENSED PREMISES (Hotels, Inns and Clubs) ..	28	28	28
(e) BAKERS and CONFECTIONERS ..	6	6	6
(f) BUTCHERS ..	8	8	8
(g) SCHOOL MEAL CANTEENS ..	4	4	4
(h) POULTERERS ..	1	1	1
TOTALS: ..	102	97	100

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Continued)FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960 (Continued)Number of Food Premises, by TypeRegistered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955

(i) SALE OF PRE-PACKED ICE-CREAM

Grocers	16
Restaurants and Catering Establishments ..	11
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery	8
(Including Mobile)	
	<hr/> 35 <hr/>

(j) PREPARATION OR MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGES,
POTTED, PRESSED, PICKLED OR PRESERVED FOOD.

Butchers	4
Bakers and Confectioners	2
Fish Fryers	2
	<hr/> 8 <hr/>

Ice-Cream

There are no ice-cream manufacturing premises in operation in the district. All retail premises have electric continuous freezers and retail pre-packed ice-cream only.

Sampling

Sampling for bacteriological analysis is carried out from time to time.

Number of samples falling into Grade 1 (Satisfactory) ..	16
Number of samples falling into Grade 2 (Satisfactory) ..	2
Number of samples falling into Grade 3 (Unsatisfactory) ..	1
Total samples analysed	<hr/> 19 <hr/>

Food Premises - Inspection, Supervision and Comment

Apart from the Poultry Plucking Factory (mainly rough plucking of hens and capons) erected in 1961, there are no food processing factories in the area other than retail shops, bakehouses, restaurants and hotel kitchens.

Routine inspections are carried out from time to time under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960, and byelaws made under the Food and Drugs Act. Contraventions are followed up by communications and reports to the appropriate Committee when found necessary.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Continued)Milk Supply

- (1) Routine inspection of dairies.
- (2) Collection of samples of milk for analysis.
 - (a) Examination for bacterial cleanliness and heat treatment.

Milk Samples Taken

Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	..	35
Sterilised milk	..	..	..	..	..	2

35 of the above samples taken during the year conformed to standards laid down.

Brucella Abortus

All milk now retailed is treated milk.
 Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 (excluding farm dairies) .. 2

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

- (1) There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Council's area.
- (2) Samples of liquid egg submitted to Alpha-Amylase test - Nil.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH

- (1) Description: Modern open air swimming bath (unheated).
- (2) Water Supply: Potable fresh water from Borough Main.
Bath emptied and re-filled annually.
- (3) Treatment: By high pressure continuous filtration plant and chemical treatment (Chlorine and Ammonia gases).
- (4) Water Changes: Water circulated continuously through filter while bath in use. Turnover period - 4 hours.
- (5) Water Samples: 30 bacteriological samples were taken from the bath, all of which were satisfactory.

ABATTOIR

During the year 1965, works of reconstruction, repair and improvement were effected at the Abattoir (built in 1877) to conform to the standards prescribed in the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 Part II Construction and Part III Equipment, and the standards prescribed in Part II of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

Method of Meat Inspection

In accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963/66 in so far as is reasonably practicable.

Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Inspections

Inspection of all carcasses is carried out daily.

Transport and Carrying of Meat

Vehicles of good standard are provided.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

- (1) Condemned meat and other material from Abattoir - after green staining - collection by private buyer.
- (2) Other food - incineration or buried.

The undernoted foods were surrendered during the year:

33 tins canned meats.
69 tins fruit.
31 tins vegetables.
1 tin milk.
23 miscellaneous.

Approximate weight of diseased meat dealt with:

Condemned

Cattle	..	682 lb.
Calves	..	6 lb.
Sheep & Lambs..		55 lb.
Pigs	..	402 lb.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough. Throughout the year arrangements at the Council's abattoir have been conducted by the Leominster Butcher's Abattoir Company.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	479	39	2845	800
Number inspected	479	39	2845	800
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	57	1	13	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.9	2.6	0.45	1.2
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned and carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-

